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The following PLAN for the RELIEF of the POOR was, by THOMAS HALL, Esq; one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of SOUTHAMPTON, presented to the Bench of Justices assembled at the last General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, held at the Castle of Winchester, in and for the said County, on Tuesday the first Week after Michaelmas last: The same was unanimously approved of and recommended to the Consideration of JERVOISE CLARKE JERVOISE, and ROBERT THISTLETWAYTE, Esqrs. the Representatives in Parliament for the said County, to observe upon whenever a BILL should be brought into the House for the Amendment of the Poor Laws; and the Justices so assembled ordered the same to be printed.

OCTOBER 5, 1786. BANBURY, Chairman.

A Temporary Plan

FOR THE BETTER MAINTENANCE AND REGULATION OF THE

Parochial Poor of the Kingdom of England.

I.

THAT in a Bill soon to be brought into Parliament, Clauses may be inserted, to empower Justices of the Peace to order a Bounty on Work, with the like Authority as they now grant Relief to the Poor, 'till a better Plan, on a larger Scale, be brought forward to Execution.

II.

THAT Certificates given agreeable to the Act of the 8th and 9th of William the Third, and other subsequent Acts for the Amendment of the same, be hereafter limited to short Terms of Years.--See Mr. *Gilbert's* former Plan, 1781.

III.

I.

THIS has been known to produce very beneficial Effects, and to double the Value of the Bounty; so that Three Shillings per week offered to be given in Relief by the Overseers, and thought insufficient for the Support of a Family consisting of six People, have, by a different Mode of Disposal of the same value of Money, in the way of Bounty, produced the comfortable Income of Nine Shillings per Week for the Support of such Family. This was put in Practice some Years since; but later Experience, recommended for Trial by a Manufacturer, has abundantly evinced the greater Benefit of proportioning the proposed Bounty to each Shilling earned: For the latter Method respects the *Quality* of Work as well as the *Quantity*.

II.

The Use of this is so very obvious, and promissing of Improvement, that it is supposed eight or ten Certificates will be granted, under the Limitation, instead of one, in the present Mode. And that if such Certificate be granted for a Year only, the Justices of the Division may enforce the granting it.

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III.

8th and 9th William III. *Cap.* 30. THAT a discriminate and special Use of the Badge be applied by the Overseers, with the Consent of the Majority of a Vestry, (Subject to Appeal to the Division or District Justices, at their Petty Sessions) as a Punishment and Censure to the idle and disorderly Poor only.

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III.

It is supposed that a creditable Mark or Token of Distinction might also be added with excellent Effect. As a Reward, for Instance, to an industrious Labourer, or an ingenious Artist, who has bred up a numerous Family in a reputable Manner, without Assistance from the Parish in which he is settled. Some real Benefit may also be added thereto—such as an Exemption from Highway Duty for a certain Time, as in the case of Militia-Men enrolled in their own Right, and not as Substitutes. Other useful Services to a Neighbourhood may likewise be rewarded with it—to those who prosecute or make Discovery of Persons guilty of Misdemeanors, and the various Species and Degrees of Larcenies and felonious Offences.

These Observations are submitted to the Consideration of the Public, as constituting a temporary Expedient for the better Management and Regulation of the Poor of this Kingdom. And it is presumed, that, by these Means, the general Body of the Poor may be supported in the Proportion of Half the Expence which has been incurred, on their Account, for any given Period of Time within the last seven Years; that better Order and Regularity will be established and kept up among them; the Stock of Industry in the Kingdom increased, as far as the Time of Trial will allow; that the Plan is easy, simple, and speedy in its Execution; and lastly, that the largest County in the Kingdom will not require ONE HUNDRED POUNDS to carry the Plan into Practice, as the meanest Cottage will, by the Bounty proposed, become a Workhouse for one Family, so long as it will be wanted: A circumstance, it is imagined of no ordinary Consequence, at a Season when the Kingdom has been put to large and heavy Expences on Account of improving Gaols and public Prisons.

OCTOBER 4th, 1786.

THOMAS HALL.

LUCAS, PRINTER, BASINGSTOKE.